

are, even more so than *pavonia*, torpid egg-laying machines. They are poor fliers, unlike the males which cover considerable distances, and appear to have only brief periods of inactivity before, during and after egg-laying. This behaviour implies a poor ability to colonise new areas, which may account for the localisation of Kentish Glory colonies. This has already been noted in some of the hairstreak butterflies, particularly *Strymonidia pruni*. This is a potentially serious disability in a moth of essentially ephemeral and often fragmentary habit; it implies that it would be slow to spread into areas which become apparently suitable, and is compatible with what we know of its distribution. It also implies that introduction into apparently suitable areas could be a sensible course of action to conserve the moth, should all else fail.

There seem to me to be at least two straightforward pieces of survey work which could be undertaken to gain a better idea of the past and present status of the Kentish Glory in Britain. The first would be a systematic search for it in Scotland, particularly in places such as the Moray Firth, the Findhorn valley and Easter Ross, parts of which are almost unexplored entomologically. The moth is probably under-recorded in the Highlands, though not, perhaps, by very much. The second would be to examine the forest history of a range of known former localities in England to see if there is some common factor, as I suspect there is, such as a change in forestry practice, which coincided with a decline in the recorded moth population. This might make a nice project for somebody. In the meantime, one can only speculate.

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References

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ADDITION TO THE CANNA LIST. — On June 12th a fine large pale specimen of *Acronycta leporina* was found sitting on the external woodwork of a house here west of the harbour. The moth trap is not being worked during the short summer nights of May, June and July, owing to the cost of keeping the diesel generator plant running later than 11.30 p.m., but my impression is that moths have been scarcer during the past two or three years, possibly owing to the considerable increase in the number of small birds here since the new plantations were made — from observations by bird watchers insect larvae seem to be their main food. I am glad to say that the number of corncrakes heard this spring showed some increase. — J. L. CAMPBELL, Isle of Canna, Hebrides.